

Locals help Ocean City filmmaker shoot feature 'Turnabout'

By **KRISTEN KELLEHER**

By Kristen Kelleher Ocean City filmmaker Eric "E.B." Hughes wrapped production Dec. 15 at 5 a.m. as the writer/director of the feature film "Turnabout," filmed in Atlantic and Cape May counties. "I always kind of wanted it to take place in a no-name shore town," Hughes, an Ocean City High School graduate said. "Turnabout" opens on the Townsend's Inlet Bridge, when lead character Billy Cain (played by George Katt) calls his best friend from high school, Perry Hayes, (played by Waylon Payne, "Walk the Line," "Road to Nowhere") after 15 years of not speaking so Hayes can rescue Cain from the bridge after a failed suicide attempt. The two head to the refuge of all New Jersey comforts, a local diner (filmed at the Point Diner in Somers Point) and catch up on old times. Cain has worked several dead end jobs since high

school, and "been knocked around a little bit" by life, Hughes said. Perry chose a more professional, family-oriented life. However, Perry's stable marriage had started to come unglued. After Cain gets into a fight at the diner, Perry and Cain decide to ditch the diner and head to a strip club. "They meet up in a situation where they meet some women," Hughes coyly explained. One of the women is murdered and the friends have to figure out what to do with the body. However, one of the two main characters passes out, Hughes explained, and the audience doesn't see who the murderer is or how the woman was killed. "There's a twist at the end," Hughes said. "I don't want to give it away, but thus the term, turnabout." Hughes wrote the dark murder mystery script in 2007, and has tried for the last several years to get it made. For monetary reasons, the production fell through several times, he explained, but got off the ground last year after Hughes' friend, Jonathon McGrath expressed interest in producing it. "Turnabout" began filming Dec. 1 and wrapped production three days early, on Dec. 15. Students from Charter Tech

High School for the Performing Arts in Somers Point assisted with the filming. Hughes studied film at Temple University and Columbia College in New York City and has worked on several films. Hughes wrote the screenplay for the 2010 film "The Fallen Faithful," winner of the 2011 Beverly Hills Film Festival Best Screenplay award and the feature film "Pacing the Cage," which wrapped production in March. Hughes has worked under the names Eric Hughes, Eric B. Hughes and E.B. Hughes. Hughes lived in Los Angeles for several years in the '90s and early 2000s, but returned to Ocean City in 2002 after his father passed away. The following year, Hughes sold his screenplay. "I think there is a big independent circuit in New York," Hughes said. "In L.A., so much of it is studio based." Hughes said he does plan to spend one month in New York City editing "Turnabout" and expected the film to be released this spring. For more information, see Hughes' IMDb (The Internet Movie Database) page at www.imdb.com. Copyright © 2012 Ocean City Sentinel, All rights reserved.